

## Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

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E.O. 11652:N/A

TAGS:OEXC, PFOR, CVIS, UR (FISHER, RALPH)

SUBJECT:DENIAL OF VISA TO US PROFESSOR RALPH FISHER

1. PROFESSOR RALPH FISHER, DIRECTOR OF RUSSIAN AND EAST EUROPEAN CENTER, UNIV. OF ILLINOIS (URBANA), WHO HAS BEEN DESIGNATED ONE OF TWO UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS DELEGATES TO AUGUST 19-25 CONFERENCE OF INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF UNIVERSITIES (IAU), HAS BEEN DENIED SOVIET VISA BY SOVEMBASSY HERE, DESPITE FACT THAT HIS APPLICATION INCLUDED LETTER OF INVITATION TO CONFERENCE FROM MGU PRORECTOR E. M. SERGEEV, SECRETARY GENERAL OF SOVIET ORGANIZING COMMITTEE. NO REASON GIVEN.

2. ILLINOIS INTENDS PURSUE MATTER THROUGH IAU HEADQUARTERS IN PARIS. REQUEST EMBASSY AT SAME TIME APPROACH MFA TO REQUEST RECONSIDERATION OF VISA DENIAL. EMBASSY MAY WISH POINT OUT THAT FISHER IS RESPECTED MEMBER OF US ACADEMIC COMMUNITY AND REPRESENTATIVE OF MAJOR US UNIVERSITY WHICH HAS COOPERATED WITH US-SOVIET EXCHANGE PROGRAMS OVER THE

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YEARS. TO DENY HIM OPPORTUNITY TO PARTICIPATE IN INTERNA-

TIONAL CONFERENCE AS OFFICIAL REPRESENTATIVE HIS UNIVERSITY, APPEARS PARTICULARLY INAPPROPRIATE IN VIEW CURRENT PLANS FOR BROADENING US-SOVIET EDUCATIONAL EXCHANGES. EMBASSY WILL RECALL THAT CHANCELLOR PELTASON OF ILLINOIS HEADED US UNIVERSITY DELEGATION WHICH VISITED SOVIET UNION IN APRIL UNDER EXCHANGES AGREEMENT.

3. FOR EMBASSY BACKGROUND, FISHER VISITED SOVIET UNION SIX TIMES DURING 1957-65 PERIOD. MOST RECENT VISIT WAS IN 1965 AS PARTICIPANT IN ACLS-ACADEMY EXCHANGE. HE WAS DENIED VISAS IN 1970 AND 1972 WITH NO REASON GIVEN. FISHER KNOWS OF NO REASON WHICH WOULD SINGLE HIM OUT FOR VISA DENIAL FROM OTHER PROMINENT SPECIALISTS ON SOVIET UNION. KISSINGER

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**Draft Date:** 17 JUL 1975  
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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
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**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
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